

American Science and Engineering, Inc.
829 Middlesex Turnpike
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821
Telephone: 978-262-8700
Fax: 978-262-8804



May 11, 2005

Dear Congressman Markey,

American Science and Engineering Inc. (AS&E) would like to extend its support for the Bill being introduced by you and Congressman Shay which addresses the need to improve Air Cargo Security. As you know, potential threats in current Air Cargo could go undetected due the lack of a comprehensive inspection requirement or strategy.

Finding a broad range of potential explosive threats in Air Cargo is a challenge to today's technology. Although existing systems may not be able to find all threats under all conditions, it is still imperative to address the issue of Air Cargo security. Finding the theoretical small amount of explosive that could bring down an aircraft is not the only way to provide a higher sense of security. Many organizations around the World provide Air Cargo security by approaching the problem differently. In some cases they use X-ray technology to inspect cargo prior to loading a container or pallet. Others use current technology to inspect the entire container to find anomalies in the cargo such as bulk explosives, radioactive materials and stowaways. They can also determine if the cargo looks different from what the manifest stipulates, if there are false bulkheads or floors or there are extra or unusual containers present. Any of these anomalies can indicate the presence of a potential threat.

Most available systems today, including AS&E's product line of X-ray Transmission, Backscatter Imaging and Radioactive Threat Detection systems, can provide a significant step toward insuring that Air Cargo has not been tampered with or poses a threat.

If properly implemented into an airport flow of cargo, security can be improved with minimal impact to the flow of commerce. Many users of current Air Cargo inspection systems throughout the World have done this successfully. What is required in the USA is a mandate to move forward with Air Cargo security as a priority and a willingness to think about the problem differently.

We support your efforts and trust that our Government will do the responsible things to make our citizens safer in these troubled times. If we can be of further help, please feel free to contact us

Best Regards,

Rich Mastronardi
VP Strategic Marketing & Sales.